



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Thursday, September 25, 2008

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The forum of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, September 25, 2008, at 3:00 p.m., at Police Headquarters, 1300 Beaubien, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Jim Holley
Ronald L. Griffin
Mohamed Okdie **(ABS)**
Erminia Ramirez **(ABS)**
Willie Hampton **(ABS)**

Department Personnel Present

DC Leo Powers
Cmdr. Brian Stair
Cmdr. Benjamin Lee
Dir. Deborah Robinson
Lt. Robbin Kirkwood-Farrar-Bradford
Lt. Donna Jarvis
Lt. Whitney Walton
Lt. Dwayne Blackmon
Lt. Steve Wilson
Lt. Emmanuel Martinez
Inv. Dwight Pierson
Sgt. Karen Fairley
Sgt. Stephanie Smith
Sgt. Robert Jackson
Sgt. Charles Clark
Sgt. William Sims
PO Sophia Nelms
PO Heshimu Green

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Executive Director
Celia Banks Washington, Attorney/Supervising Inv.
Arnold Sheard, Chief Investigator (**ABS**)
Lawana Ducker, Personnel Director
Curtis Staples, Supervising Investigator
Ainsley Cromwell, Supervising Investigator
P.O. Kent Cooper

OTHERS PRESENT

Edward Moore	Tijuana Morris
Media	Tyrus Decouriac
Ron Scott	Joseph Dutka
George Washington	Bernice Smith
LaWanda Hail-Ruffin	Sylvia Banks
Denise Stoudemire	Chaplain Don Journoy
Wanda Slackwell	Daniel Burks
Christine Davis	

RECORDERS

PO Terence Bell
Robert Brown

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Holley called the meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 3:18 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda for September 25, 2008, was not presented because of the lack of a quorum.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes for September 18, 2008 were not presented because of the lack of a quorum.

4. BOPC OFFICER'S REPORT

1. CHAIRPERSON

2. SECRETARY REPORT

SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY OF POLICE OFFICER KEVIN SCHUH, BADGE 4276, ASSIGNED TO THE NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT

In December of 2006, Internal Affairs (IA) received information from Special Agent (SA) Al Norris, of the National Insurance Crime Bureau (N.I.C.B.) regarding an open investigation that they along with the Michigan Attorney General's Office were investigating which involved fraudulent auto insurance claims.

In January of 2007, SA Norris requested several State of Michigan UD-10 Crash Reports prepared by members of the Detroit Police Department. Additionally, IA received a request from SA Norris, to secure a specific accident report and the related Detroit Police Department Activity Log, for an accident which occurred on December 27, 2004. IA secured the accident report and Activity Log. IA found that the author of the accident report was Police Officer Kevin Schuh, badge 4276, assigned to the Northeastern District. While checking over the accident report and Activity Log, IA discovered that Officer Schuh indicated on the report that the accident was investigated at the scene. There was no information regarding the accident recorded on his Activity Log.

During this same time period, IA began reviewing the Northeastern District accident book for the years of 2005 and 2006, and accident reports submitted by Officer Schuh. IA cross referenced Officer Schuh's Activity Logs and accident reports, and discovered that he falsely claimed to have investigated numerous accidents at the scene. IA further discovered that the falsified accident reports in question involved high priced vehicles that were deemed a total loss.

IA did a thorough review of Officer Schuh's Activity Logs. On the days of the falsified accident reports, it was discovered that Officer Schuh could not have investigated at the accident scene because he was either assigned out to a special detail, dispatched to a police run or in a different area within the district. IA also discovered that Officer Schuh authored crash reports when he was off-duty and on leave, this was confirmed through the Northeastern District timekeeper and department records.

Also during January of 2007, IA was informed by Special Agent Michael Haynie, of the Detroit Federal Bureau of Investigation, Public Corruption Unit that he was investigating Detroit police officers for fraudulent accident reports.

Internal Affairs informed Special Agent Haynie about the Michigan Attorney Generals and the N.I.C.B.'s investigations.

It should be noted that Officer Schuh was not immediately suspended regarding this investigation due to the fact that the involved agencies initially considered using him in a covert operation and/or as a potential witness for the prosecution.

On February 20, 2008, Special Agent Haynie interviewed Officer Schuh at his home and he admitted to preparing false accident reports for the owners of Somerset Collision, Platinum Collision, and Broadway Collision in exchange for receiving compensation in the amount of \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00.

On May 29, 2008, Officer Schuh appeared at the 46th District Court in Southfield, Michigan as a witness in the prosecution of the owner of Somerset Collision. This case involved insurance fraud. During court testimony, Officer Schuh invoked his Fifth Amendment Right.

On June 2, 2008, IA suspended Officer Schuh from the Detroit Police Department. It should be noted that Officer Schuh was being carried disabled due to an on duty injury; therefore the department did not move forward to suspend him without pay.

On September 12, 2008, the Michigan Attorney General's Office charged Officer Schuh with felony warrant #08 064812 for Count one (1) Misconduct in Office, Count two (2) Forgery, Count three (3) Uttering and Publishing, and Count four (4) Insurance Fraud/Conspiracy.

On September 16, 2008, Officer Schuh was restored to "**FULL DUTY**" by Police Medical with an effective date of September 22, 2008.

Based upon the above facts and circumstances, it is recommended that Officer Schuh be charged with, but not limited to, the following violation of the department Rules and Regulations:

CHARGE: CONDUCT UNBECOMING AN OFFICER, CONTRARY TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS; THIS BEING IN VIOLATION OF THE 2003 DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT MANUAL SERIES 100, DIRECTIVE 102.3 – 7.9, CONDUCT UNPROFESSIONAL, COMMAND 1.

Due to the seriousness of the conduct, I am requesting your concurrence with the suspension of Police Officer Kevin Schuh **without pay**, effective September 25, 2008.

Exec Dir Goss acknowledged the arrival of Comm. Griffin at 3:32 pm.

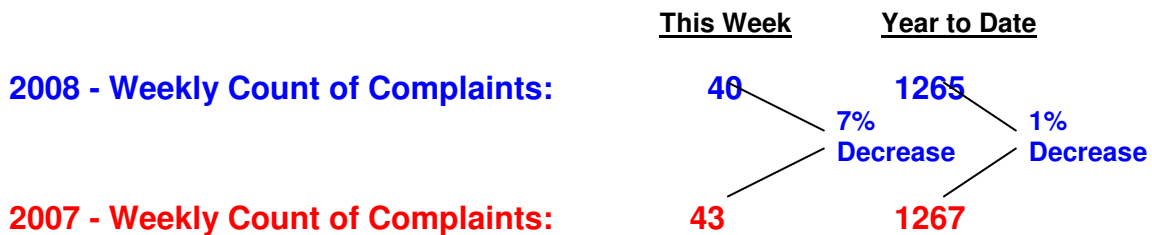
Unless **contravened** by this Board the suspension without pay shall stand.

There were no contraventions.

Chairperson Holley asked if anyone knows where Brown City is located.

DC Powers stated not off hand but he could get that information later.

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED



- The Office of the Chief Investigator has a total of **1,225** active investigations, of which **978** of those are for 2008.

TOTAL WEEKLY ALLEGATIONS & COMMAND

Total	COMMAND	ALLEGATIONS									Total
CCR	W/E 09/25/08	Arrest	Demeanor	Force	Harassment	Entry	Procedure	Property	Search	Service	Allegations
1	CENTRAL		1	1							2
5	COMMUNICATIONS		3							2	5
1	EASTERN		1								1
5	NORTHEASTERN	1	5							1	7
6	NORTHWESTERN		3	1			4			2	10
6	SOUTHWESTERN	1	3		1		5			1	11
1	TCRU									1	1
2	TRAFFIC ENFORC		1				2				3
5	Unknown Command	1	3	2			3				9
8	WESTERN		3	2			6			2	13
40		3	23	6	1		20			9	62

5. PRESENTATION/REPORT-CHIEF OF POLICE

September 25, 2008

Volume 4, Issue 39

Detroit Police Department

Report to the Board of Police Commissioners



“Building a Safer Detroit Through Community Partnerships”

The Detroit Police Department is committed to uphold its mission to provide a safe environment for our residents and businesses. This effort is not possible without the joint commitment of the community and the Police Department. We appreciate and value the role our citizens have played in helping us to take the guns and drugs off the streets of the city of Detroit.

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Domestic Violence

Officers of the Eastern District responded to the 14000 block of Maple Ridge on a “Person being Assaulted/Shots Fired.” Subsequent to the investigation conducted by members of Domestic Violence, a subject was arrested and charged with “Assault with Intent to Commit Great Bodily Harm,” “Felon in Possession,” two-counts of “Felony Assault,” “Felony Firearm,” “Domestic Violence,” and “Habitual 2nd.”

Special Points of Interest:

• Next meeting:

Thursday, October 2, 2008

@ 3:00 P.M.

**Detroit Police Headquarters
1300 Beaubien St.
Detroit, Michigan 48226**

Inside this issue:

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Engaging the Community

ATTENTION

Citizens wishing to make a police report may do so at the District stations in the city of Detroit. Citizens may also utilize the following District Sub-Stations to make reports.

		<u>Location</u>	<u>Hours of Operation</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
		1300 Beaubien	24 Hours	596-5100
		2151 E. Jefferson	24 Hours	596-6400
		7737 Kercheval	7 a.m. to 3 p.m.	628-2121
		19810 Grand River	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	935-5322
		13530 Lesure	8 a.m. to 11 p.m.	596-5300
		12000 Livernois	24 Hours	237-2555
		20 Atwater	24 Hours	237-2850

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Police / Community Intervention

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Northwestern District

On September 20th, officers of the Northwestern District observed two subjects enter a vacant building located in the 19000 block of Plymouth. Due to the officers quick response and investigation, both subjects were arrested and charged with wanted "Breaking & Entering Without Breaking," "Possession of Burglary Tools," and "Habitual 3rd."



Homicide

Officers of the Southwestern District responded to a "Shooting" that occurred in the area of Appoline and Capital, which resulted in no arrests at the time. Subsequent to the investigation conducted by members of Homicide, a subject was arrested and charged with "1st Degree Murder," "Felon in Possession," "Carjacking," and "Felony Firearm."



Eastern District

On September 17th, while investigating a street party in the 14000 block of Seymour, officers of the Eastern District observed a subject attempt to discard a weapon. The subject was arrested and charged with "Carrying a Concealed Weapon." A weapon was recovered.



Western District

On September 18th, officers of the Western District responded to the 16000 block of Greenlawn on a "Breaking & Entering" in progress." Subsequent to their investigation, two suspects were arrested and charged with "Home Invasion II." Stolen property was recovered.

DC Powers introduced all the Chief's staff and Lt. Blackmon of Homicide.

Lt. Blackmon introduced his staff and gave an overview of the Homicide Unit and its endeavors.

He introduced Ms. Stoudemier a social worker with the victims' assistance program, and Ms. Banks chair of the support group, Parents of Murdered Children (POMC). They both gave an overview of their relationship with the department and the victims.

SEE ATTACHMENTS

Chairperson Holley asked for a timeline as to how quickly families of murder victims are receiving help.

D. Stoudemire stated their goal is to contact the next of kin within 24 hours, but contact is made with the families no later than a week.

Chairperson Holley stated, for example, if the aunt is the guardian, but the father is present, which one would be the contact person for the family.

D. Stoudemire stated the name that the department gives them will be the contact person, but they also reach out to the other family members as well.

Chairperson Holley asked if she helps to facilitate the lines of communication between the families and the officers who are in charge of the case.

D. Stoudemire stated the victim's family will call her department and they will call the officer who is in charge and ask for an update and ask that person to give the family a call.

Chairperson Holley stated it sounds as though her department is the link between the department and the victims' family.

D. Stoudemire stated they are striving to be the go-between.

Chairperson Holley asked how this Board can assist her to make that happen, because it concerns him when a parent says he/she can't get any information about what happened to their family member.

D. Stoudemire stated she will take that question back to her supervisor, but will love to have more discussion regarding this.

She stated there needs to be a trusting relationship with the family and the police department before a family member becomes a victim.

The department must do something about the No Snitch that is preventing witnesses from coming forward.

DC Powers stated that it is with the help of the community the police department is able to solve a lot of the cases.

Chairperson Holley asked Ms. Stoudemire how they are funded.

D. Stoudemire stated they are funded by the State of Michigan.

Lt. Blackmon stated to clarify how information is given to Ms. Stoudemire and other counselors, they are housed within homicide. The day following the homicide they are given the contact person for that family.

As a follow-up, he would like to have some volunteers to answer the incoming calls because most of the investigators are in the field investigating their cases.

Chairperson Holley stated his concern is that the investigators keep communicating with the family on a regular basis.

Lt. Blackmon stated as long as he is in homicide, the investigators will continue to communicate with the family and that's the reason he invited Ms. Banks, Chapter leader of the "Parents of Murdered Children."

DC Powers stated that police officers are from the same stock that citizens are from and they are also affected by homicides to a family member and their community.

S. Banks introduced members of the organization, and stated that their organization is a support group for family members who have lost a loved one.

Many family members were/are concerned that they cannot speak to an investigator. Once this process was explained to them, they had a better understanding and formed a relationship.

Chairperson Holley asked what kind of assistance or advice can you offer those family members who don't want to attend your meetings and wanted to know how to bring comfort to them.

S. Banks stated that is a difficult task, but she has been collaborating with other groups trying to get everyone to work together.

Chairperson Holley asked if there were other groups like hers.

S. Banks she stated unfortunately no.

Chairperson Holley asked what this Board can do to help.

Lt. Blackmon stated they recommend to all the family members to seek help, but it takes some longer to seek help than others.

Chairperson Holley asked what the Chaplain oversees.

Chaplain D. Journey introduced himself and stated that he works with other police departments and helps to facilitate Parents of Murdered Children.

He stated the best way for someone to help a homicide victim is to listen.

Chairperson Holley asked as a Chaplain, can a letter be sent out to all of the victims' family letting them know that help is out there.

Chaplain D. Journey stated yes, sir.

S. Banks stated their support group is not privileged to certain information.

Chairperson Holley stated that needs to be worked out so the Chaplain is involved.

Lt. Blackmon stated the department needs the family consent to release certain information to organizations in order to send out for a letter.

Chairperson Holley asked if they have been doing that.

Lt. Blackmon stated no, but they are told verbally.

S. Banks stated what you are suggesting is the victim's family needs to sign some type of waiver to release that information.

Chairperson Holley stated Lt. Blackmon stated he has to follow the law and he just wants the family to know, in writing, that there is help out there and who has that help.

D. Stoudemire stated they do reach out to the family by correspondence by sending them a package which includes referrals.

Chairperson Holley asked Lt. Blackmon to help him with this issue.

Lt. Blackmon stated he has made it a task to make sure that all of the organizations are working together.

Chairperson Holley stated he will be inviting them back and stated to the Chaplain that he plays a very important role in this.

Comm. Griffin asked what is the role of the Detroit Police Chaplain Corps with the families of murder victims.

S. Banks stated today is National Day of Remembrance for anyone who has lost a loved one to murder, and Chaplain Claudia Finley of the Police Chaplains is giving the invocation.

Comm. Griffin asked if the Chaplains accompany them to the homes of the victims, if not, would that be an added service.

Chaplain D. Journoy stated faith is always a strong tool, but a Chaplain shouldn't go running to an incident with a Bible.

Comm. Griffin stated that he agrees that training is necessary, because he used to be a Wayne County Chaplain. He asked if that would be something that everyone would welcome.

S. Banks stated absolutely and everyone is invited to come out tonight at Berg Historical Park.

Comm. Griffin asked about the background of the officers who work in homicide, and how many are there.

Lt. Blackmon stated the majority of them have an investigation background. They have about 30 investigators.

Chairperson Holley asked how Detroit compares to other major cities regarding homicide cases.

Lt. Blackmon stated the national average case load per investigator is 4-6, and that our department average is 10-15.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

8. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

9. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

Chairperson Holley announced the next Board meeting:

Thursday, October 2, 2008, @ 6:30 p.m.
Police Headquarters
1300 Beaubien Rm. 328-A
Detroit, MI 48226

Chairperson Holley also announced that on Oct. 9, 2008 the Board's Community Meeting at Wayne State University will be "city-wide," and that he would like to introduce the new Police Chief to the community, and for him to give a 90-minute overview of the new changes within the department.

DC Powers stated he will take that message back to the Chief.

Chairperson Holley also stated because former Chief Ella M. Bully-Cummings was the first female Chief to be appointed in the history of this City, he would like to do something special for her.

Comm. Griffin asked for a request in writing from the Chief so that it can be announced at next Thursday meeting.

DC Powers stated he will give that information to his staff.

10. **ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE**

B. Smith stated she is disappointed that the new Chief is not here today.

Chairperson Holley stated the Chief doesn't officially start until September 29, 2008.

B. Smith stated she will accept that and her only concern was to make sure the officers have anger management training to cut down on the lawsuits.

R. Scott stated even though his official date is September 29th, his presence at this meeting would have been symbolic. He stated that this department should be under strict control of the public.

DC Powers stated the Chief will be in and out but it was not his intent to miss this meeting and he assured the audience that the department is under civilian control.

R. Scott stated that the Chief has been to everyone but the oversight body of the department.

Chairperson Holley stated the Chief met with this Board yesterday and he informed them that he wasn't going to be here today.

T. Morris stated there are problems between staff and those officers who work the streets. This is the first time she has ever heard of the victim assistance program and look forward to working with them.

M. Lacy stated many of the people in community have lost trust in the police department regarding the crime lab.

T. Decouriac stated Brown City is 75 miles from Detroit.

Chairperson Holley stated thanks for that information.

T. Decouriac stated his father was robbed as he answered the door. The robber took several items including a cell phone which he traced back to the robber and gave this info to the police. He stated they have failed to get back with him.

Chairperson Holley asked what area did this happen in.

T. Decouriac stated the Davison and Conant area. He stated there are two known drugs houses in the neighborhood where he thinks the merchandise is being held at.

DC Powers asked for Mr. Decouriac to see him after the meeting.

J. Dutka stated he owns and operates a small parking lot at Sprague Street. Lately he has been harassed by the police department since Prime Parking has been trying to force him off of his land. His land and others have been slated for a multi-million dollar project.

Chairperson Holley stated he met with the new Chief and he will not stand for something like this to happen.

DC Powers asked Mr. Dutka if he spoke with a high ranking official at the Central District.

J. Dutka stated yes, and that the problem goes away for a few days, and then returns again.

DC Powers asked for Mr. Dutka to see him after the meeting and there are few steps that he can take if he is being harassed.

Chairperson Holley asked Mr. Dutka to speak with the supervisor of the Office of the Chief Investigator as well.

Comm. Griffin asked for Mr. Dutka to make sure he gives his complaint to the Office of the Chief Investigator before he leaves.

E. Moore stated on behalf of Councilman Kenyetta his door is always open and call him if you need to.

W. Slackwell stated her son and daughter were killed a week apart. She thanked those officers who worked on her son case as well as the organization for "Parents of Murdered Children".

Chairperson Holley stated you mentioned your son's case but didn't say anything about your daughter's case. He asked are they both closed.

W. Slackwell stated no, her step daughter's father and her mother were mostly handling her case. But the second group of investigators had done a marvelous job on her son's case. She stated how all of this has changed her and her family's lives.

G. Washington stated he is also being harassed by the department.

Chairperson Holley stated to DC Powers that after speaking to Mr. Washington he feels like he has been mistreated and asked him to look into it.

DC Powers stated he will speak with Mr. Washington after the meeting.

Chairperson Holley stated to Mr. Washington this is a new day and to give the new Chief a chance.

D. Burks stated there are seven towers in his district but he only receives one call a day during rotation.

Chairperson Holley stated he has asked for a meeting with the Mayor to discuss the towing issue.

D. Burks stated he is still waiting for the paperwork so that he can have an auction.

DC Powers stated that fleet management held an auction yesterday and all auctions are done by Fleet Management.

D. Burks stated he hasn't had an auction in eight months.

Chairperson Holley stated that part of this evolves around the towing process and this Board is on top of it.

C. Davis stated she is looking forward to a meeting with the new administration.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DANTE' L. GOSS
Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/rb